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Devan Govindan (Member, Kottarakkara Taluk) made the following suggestions for increasing the usefulness of the Sirkar hospitals :—

(1) Instructions should be issued to all medical officers requiring them to attend readily to all emergent calls.

(2) No visiting fee should be claimed by a medical officer for a visit within a radius of three miles from the hospital, only carriage allowance being claimed.

(3) Strict rules should be framed for reducing and regulating the fees to be paid to medical men.

(4) The rule requiring the personal attendance of patients at the hospitals for medicine should be discontinued.

(5) Only prescriptions should be given to those officers whose salary was more than 25 Rs. Those landholders who paid more than 50 Rs. as tax, and those whose annual income was more than 1,000 Rs., should not be given medicines gratis.

(6) The institution of a separate section for Goshu women in the Women and Children's hospital at Trivandrum.

(7) Instructions should be issued to see that the milk etc. for the patients is kept free from adulteration.

Dewan's reply.—I shall communicate the suggestions to the Darbar Physician.

VII. Education.

17. Reforms in [the Education] Department and the attitude of Government towards private institutions.

Mr. C. M. Narayana Panikar (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) stated that the Education Code should have been placed before the public in draft form before it was passed, as done in the case of legislative enactments. He considered that the Code had good points in it, viz., the improvement of school buildings, equipment, qualifications of teachers, &c. The one year's time allowed to the Managers to bring their schools up to the standard of efficiency was far too short. The Director was allowed discretion to extend or shorten this period, but the tendency would be to fix the minimum time, and therefore the Member prayed for more time being allowed. Government assumed that the Managers would not conduct their schools properly if they were not *compelled* to do so. This was unfair. The Member stated that, even though primary education was made free, the people were not benefited by it, because higher education became costlier. He requested that a scheme might be devised for making secondary

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education cheaper. Managers were not given any freedom of action by the Code. They could not appoint teachers, they could not dispense with the services of teachers without reference to Government, but all the same, they had to spend money on their school. The Member prayed that Government might be pleased to take action on the points urged by him.

Dewan's reply.—The views of the Member are noted and will be given careful consideration. The education policy of His Highness' Government has been only recently defined. That policy will have to be given a fair trial before any material alteration is thought of. To mention, however, I would say, that neither the Government nor the Education Department are inclined to show any spirit of hostility towards private schools. It is only the fact is that these schools should be made to improve only the way

48. *Special Schools for the Malayala Brahmins.*

Mr. Eravithayar Pandarathil (Member,) stated that the Malayala Brahmin community valued the forward in the matter of modern or English education, though they were well versed in ancient Sanskrit literature and the Vedas. Owing to the absence of English education the members of the community were not able to move with the times. The Member further remarked that the community feared that their ancient prestige would suffer, if they were not given English education. But as the community was most conservative, the Government should take the initiative. Government might say that the Malayala Brahmins could study in the already existing English schools. But there were difficulties in the way of doing so. Each boy of the community had to observe the Brahmacharya Vritam from his 7th to his 16th year. During that period, the boy was tied down by severe restrictions, which would not admit of his attending the ordinary schools. Therefore, the Member prayed that Government might be pleased to establish English schools up to the Fifth Form, at least for some time to come, at Trivandrum, Chengannur, Kottayam and Alwaye, where Malayala Brahmin boys could study without let or hindrance.

Dewan's reply.—The Director will be asked to report on the suggestions of the Member.

49. *Promotion of education among the backward classes.*

Mr. K. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) stated that the backward classes were so poor that they could not help themselves in the matter of education. They were so illiterate that they could not understand the value of education. Therefore the Member stated that it was the duty of Government to establish schools for the promotion